GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3241
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
DEVASTATING CONDITION OF RIVERS
AJAY CHAKRABORTY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the devastating condition of rivers in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps being taken by the Government to save these rivers ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control including bank protection projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities.

Ganga Flood Control Commission under this Ministry have prepared Master Plan for Ajoy, Mahananda, Mayurakshi, Damodar, Rupnarayan, Haldi − Rasulpur and Tidal rivers of West Bengal in which various short term and long term measures have been suggested to manage/control the flood. These Master Plans were sent to the State Govt. for implementation.

To control soil erosion of bank of river Ganga in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad, the Planning Commission, Government of India had set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Flood), Central Water Commission which had suggested both short term and long term measures to control bank erosion problem in those dirstricts. The report was sent to the State Government. An amount of Rs.30.00 crore has been provided by the Planning Commission as Central Assistance to the State Government for undertaking such anti erosion works.

The Government of India have also decided to provide Central Assistancein the ratio of 75% Central Share : 25% State Share, towards implementation of some critical anti erosion schemes inter- alia on the river Ganga/Padma identified by another Committee headed by the Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission. An amount of Rs.6.50 crore has been released to West Bengal as Central Share for these works during 2000-01.